

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

AID-20 T-03 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 OC-06 RSR-01

/131 W

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R 120715 Z MAR 73

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1300

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

AMCONSUL KISANGANI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0090

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS CG

SUBJ: PUBLIC ORDER IN SHABA

REF: LUBUMBASHI 081

1. UNDERSTAND FROM SOME CONSULAR COLLEAGUES HERE THAT WHAT MAY BE EXAGGERATED STORIES ON PUBLIC ORDER IN SHABA ARE MAKING THE ROUNDS IN KINSHASA. THIS TELEGRAM GIVES OUR BRIEF ASSESSMENT BUT WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT, GIVEN MINIMAL RECENT TRAVEL BY CONSULATE PERSONNEL WE ARE NOT FIRSTHAND FAMILIAR WITH SITUATION.

2. PER REF A., THERE HAS BEEN UNEASINESS ON PARTS OF MILITARY AND EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DURING PAST WEEKS, LARGELY DUE TO MURDER OF THREE MILITARY INCLUDING VAIN ATTEMPT AT PAY-ROLL ROBBERY. MILITARY REACTION WAS EXCESSIVE BUT IN RECENT DAYS NUMBER OF CHECKS AND ROADBLOCKS, AT LEAST IN LUBUMBASHI AREA HAS DECLINED SHARPLY.

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3. AT THE SAME TIME THERE ARE SPATES OF RUMORS RE UNREST AND MANIFESTATIONS AROUND THE PROVINCE. GENDARMERIE AT KAMINA ARE SAID TO HAVE PROVOKED A CIVILIAN COUNTER- REACTION BY STRONG- ARM TACTICS PROMOTING QTE VOLUNTARY UNQTE LABOR FOR SOLONGO. ALSO RUMORED THAT KAMINA ARMORY RAIDED. SIMILAR STORY PERTAINS TO MALEMBA- KNULU WHERE ALLEGEDLY TWO GENDARMES PLUS CIVILIAN OFFICIAL ROUGHED UP. VAGUE STORY ATTRIBUTES UNREST TO MILITARY GARRISON AT SHINKOLOBWE. THESE LIKELY FALL IN SAME CATEGORIES AS TALES HERE OF UNREST AND STRONG SECURITY MEASURES BY GOZ ON KINSHASA - MATADI ROAD.

4. IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO UNDER- RATE OR TOTALLY DISREGARD THESE STORIES. GOVT HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY HARASSING THE ZAIROIS OVER PAST FEW MONTHS. WHEN EMPLOYMENT AND UNDER- EMPLOYMENT ARE HIGH AND COST OF LIVING ZOOMING, GOVT HAS, FOR EXAMPLE:

-- KEPT WAGES FLAT;

-- TAKEN MORE AND MORE PRODUCTIVE OR FREE TIME WITH PARTY ANIMATION, CHANTS AND SLOGANS;

-- BEGUN TO USE THE FREE TIME OF THE CITIZENRY FOR WHAT, UNTIL NOW AT LEAST, HAVE BEEN MAKE- WORK PROJECTS UNDER SALONGO;

-- MADE THE ABAKO COSTUME MANDJWORY FOR MANY AND OUTLAWED THE EUROPEAN WARDROBE;

-- SUPPRESSED RELIGIOUS PUBLICATIONS AND ALMOST FULLY REPLACED ANY REAL NEWS IN GOVT PRESS WITH PARTY PONTIFICATIONS.

-- PUSHED CONCURRENTLY CULT OF ANONYMITY (ANYBODY BUT MOBUTU) ALONG WITH THE CULT OF THE ONE AND ONLY PERSONALITY;

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-- ONCE AGAIN BEGUN TO ATTACK CHURCHES,

PROTESTANT AS WELL AS CATHOLIC;

-- CLOSED THE BARS UNTIL LATE AFTERNOON,
AND,

-- PERHAPS MOST HEINOUS OF ALL, THREATENED TO
POLITICIZE FOOTBALL AND OTHER SPORTS.

I HAVE NO WEB OF KNOWING HOW LONG SHABIANS WILL ALLOW
THEMSELVES TO BE HASSLED THIS WAY, MAYBE INDEFIN FELY.
WE DECTECT NO RPT NO SIGNS SITUATION IS CRITICAL NOR
OF ORGANIZED RESISTANCE. BUT IT BECOMES CLEARER
THAT TY GUIDE ECLAIRE IS LOOSING SOME OF HIS
LUSTER.
JUNIOR

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